

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 9 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Support for the amended claims is found in the Specification and the claims as originally filed. In particular, Fig. 5 shows how to obtain a pressure curve for a ceramic arc tube pressurized with a buffer gas to 5 bar. *See also*, Specification at pages 13-14 and page 7, lines 17-29.

The title of the invention has been amended to be more descriptive of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's objection to the form of claim 7. MPEP §2173.05(h)II clearly states that "[a]lternative expressions using 'or' are acceptable, such as 'wherein R is A, B, C, or D.'" The Markush group is only one form of an acceptable alternative expression.

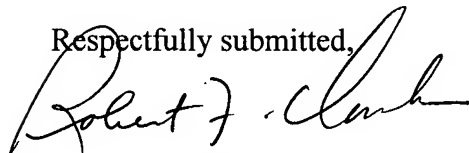
The rejection of claims 1, 2 and 7-9 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Born et al. is respectfully traversed. The maximum buffer gas pressure (at room temperature) disclosed by Born et al. is 2 bar. Since Born et al. does not teach a buffer gas pressure of at least 5 bar, the Applicants respectfully assert that Born et al. does not anticipate nor make obvious the claimed invention.

The rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Scholl et al. is respectfully traversed. The portion of Scholl et al. cited by the Examiner refers to the pressures in an operating arc tube. This is not the buffer gas pressure defined by the instant application. In particular, the Specification states at page 7, lines 21-24, that "[i]t is to be understood that the buffer gas pressures referred to herein are measured at room temperature (about 25 °C) and not at the very high temperatures encountered in an operating arc tube." In Scholl et al., exemplary fill pressures at ambient temperature are given in Tables 2 and 4; all of which are below 1 bar. Col. 3, Table 2 and ll. 60-61; Col. 4, Table 4. Moreover, contrary to the Examiner's assertions, Scholl et al. discloses a quartz glass arc tube (Col. 5, lines 25-26) which does not use a frit material to seal the electrode assemblies. Instead, the electrodes assemblies of Scholl et al. are press sealed as shown in Fig. 2 as is typical for quartz arc tubes. Furthermore, in the instant Specification at page 2, lines 22-35, the Applicants clearly contrast their invention with fused silica (quartz) arc tubes. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed invention is not anticipated nor made obvious by Scholl et al.

The rejection of claims 1 and 4-6 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Lapatovich is respectfully traversed. Lapatovich et al. discloses a number of different single-ended arc tube embodiments including quartz arc tubes sealed with a metal foil (Col. 2, ll. 66 et seq.) and ceramic arc tubes sealed with a frit material. Although Lapatovich mentions a very broad range of fill gas cold pressures from 1 torr to 10 atmospheres, Lapatovich et al. does not teach which fill pressures are associated with which lamp types. Col. 3, ll. 55-57. Since it is known that quartz arc tubes may have very high fill pressures (Specification, page 2, lines 22-35, "as high as 8 bar"), the Applicants respectfully assert that this very general statement does not constitute a teaching that frit-sealed ceramic arc tubes may contain the high buffer gas pressures of the Applicants' claimed invention. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed invention is not anticipated nor made obvious by Lapatovich et al.

In view of the foregoing amendment, it is believed that the Examiner's rejections have been overcome and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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